

STATEMENT SHOWING MINIMUM NOMINAL RATES OF WAGE AND ORDINARY HOURS OF  
LABOUR FOR WORKERS IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA AT  
31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

(Rates of wage are quoted from the latest Award, Determination or Agreement operative  
on 31st December, 1955)

AWULU RATES

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS, ETC.</u>				
<u>COOPERING</u>	s. d.		s. d.	
Copper	318/-	40	323/-	40
<u>FURNITURE -</u>				
Cabinet Maker	325/-	"	310/-	"
Chairmaker	325/-	"	310/-	"
French Polisher	325/-	"	310/-	"
Wood Carver	325/-	"	310/-	"
Wood Machinist	325/-	"	325/- to 310/-	"
<u>MILLING AND TIMBER YARDS -</u>				
Box and Case Maker	283/-	"	275/-	"
Labourer	257/-	"	245/-	"
Machinist -				
Boults Carver	313/-	"	305/-	"
Moulding	273/6 & 313/-	"	265/6 & 305/-	"
Planing	286/- & 313/-	"	278/- & 305/-	"
Shaping	313/-	"	305/-	"
Orderman	291/-	"	283/-	"
Sawyer -				
Band or Jig	285/6 to 318/-	"	277/6 to 310/-	"
Circular	288/- & 310/-	"	280/- & 302/-	"
Tallyman	286/-	"	278/-	"
<u>ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOILERMAKING -</u>				
Boilermaker	318/-	"	310/-	40
Helper	256/-	"	258/-	"
Labourer	252/-	"	246/-	"
<u>ASSWORKING -</u>				
Finisher	293/- & 318/-	"	285/- & 310/-	"
Moulder	271/- to 318/-	"	263/- to 310/-	"
<u>ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION -</u>				
Electrical Fitter	334/-	"	310/-	"
Linesman	326/-	"	292/6	"
Electrical Mechanic	334/-	"	310/-	"
<u>ELECTRICAL SUPPLY.</u>				
Electrical Fitter *	365/-	"	336/-	"
Instrument Maker *	389/-	"	361/-	"
Linesman	350/- & 365/-	"	303/- to 321/-	"
Substation maintenance fitter	383/-	"	336/-	"
<u>ENGINEERING -</u>				
Blacksmith	320/6	"	312/6	"
Brassfinisher	293/- & 318/-	"	285/- & 310/-	"
Coppersmith	320/6	"	312/6	"
Fitter	318/-	"	310/-	"

\* Additional amount of 15/- per week payable if working at power stations.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES 31ST DECEMBER, 1955 (Continued)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<b>ENGINEERING - (Cont'd.)</b>	s. d.		s. d.	
Labourer	252/-	40	244/-	40
Patternmaker	340/6	"	332/6	"
Shaper	293/- & 318/-	"	285/- & 310/-	"
Striker	266/- & 270/6	"	258/- & 262/6	"
Turner	318/-	"	310/-	"
<b>FOUNDRY -</b>				
Copremaker - machine	271/- to 293/-	"	263/- to 285/-	"
- jobbing	318/-	"	310/-	"
Dresser	271/- to 290/6	"	263/- to 282/6	"
Furnaceman	280/6 to 288/-	"	272/6 to 280/-	"
Moulder - machine	271/- to 293/-	"	263/- to 285/-	"
- jobbing	318/-	"	310/-	"
<b>SHEET METAL WORKING -</b>				
Canister Maker	273/-	"	265/-	"
Machinist	265/-	"	257/-	"
Solderer	265/- & 273/-	"	257/- & 265/-	"
Sheet Metal Worker 1st class	318/-	"	310/-	"
Sheet Metal Worker 2nd class	293/-	"	285/-	"
<b>FOOD, DRINK, ETC.</b>				
<b>BAKING (BREAD) -</b>				
Board Hand	336/-	40	345/-	38
Bread Carter (1 horse)	301/-	"	318/6	40
Ovensman	344/6	"	345/-	38
Single Hand	341/-	"	366/-	38
<b>BAKING (BISCUITS AND CAKES) -</b>				
Baker	304/-	"	296/-	40
General Labourer	271/6	"	266/-	"
Mixer	286/- & 291/6	"	296/-	"
<b>BREWING -</b>				
Cellarman	285/- & 292/-	"	285/-	"
Driver (Motor, 3 tons)	299/-	"	293/6	"
Labourer	285/-	"	278/-	"
Malt Hand	285/-	"	263/-	"
Towerman	292/-	"	285/-	"
<b>BUTCHERING (RETAIL) -</b>				
Carter (1 horse)	278/-	"	272/-	"
General Butcher	303/-	"	295/-	"
Shopman	303/-	"	295/-	"
Smallgoodsman	303/-	"	295/-	"
<b>CONFECTIONERY -</b>				
Confectioner (Grade I)	310/-	"	292/-	"
Storeman	290/6	"	289/6	"
<b>JAM MAKING -</b>				
General Labourer	262/-	"	262/-	"
Solderer	267/-	"	267/-	"
<b>MEAT PACKING -</b>				
Capper	311/-	"	324/-	"
Guillotine Hand	290/-	"	296/-	"
Jokerman	304/-	"	320/-	"
Packer	290/-	"	320/-	"
Seamer	311/-	"	324/-	"
<b>MILLING (FLOUR) -</b>				
Miller (Shift)	312/6 to 350/-	"	312/6 to 350/-	"
Packerman	288/-	"	288/-	"
Purifierman	292/6	"	292/6	"
Smutterman	292/6	"	292/6	"
Storeman (Head)	295/- & 303/-	"	295/- & 303/-	"
Topman	292/6	"	292/6	"
<b>PASTRYCOOKING -</b>				
Packer	286/-	"	264/-	"
Pastrycook	320/-	"	315/-	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ANNUAL HOURS 31ST DECEMBER, 1955 (Contd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wages		Rates of Wages	
	CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS, ETC.	Hours	CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS, ETC.	Hours
<b>BOOTMAKING -</b>	s. d.		s. d.	
Bootmaker	292/-	40	292/-	40
<b>TAILORING (ORDER) -</b>				
Cutter	378/-	"	319/-	"
Presser	287/-	"	287/-	"
Tailor	296/-	"	296/-	"
<b>TAILORING (READYMADE) -</b>				
Cutter	300/-	"	300/-	"
Presser	287/-	"	287/-	"
Tailor	296/-	"	296/-	"
Trimmer	287/-	"	287/-	"
<b>TEXTILE WORKING -</b>				
(Woollen Mills) -				
Carder	270/-	"	270/-	"
Dyehouseman	270/-	"	270/-	"
Labourer (General)	241/-	"	241/-	"
Scourer (Wool)	270/- to 279/6	"	270/- to 279/6	"
Spinner	270/-	"	270/-	"
Loom Tuner	266/- to 308/-	"	266/- to 308/-	"
Warper (Plain)	273/-	"	273/-	"
<b>BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.</b>				
<b>BOOKBINDING -</b>				
Finisher	318/-	40	310/-	40
Bookbinder	318/-	"	310/-	"
Paper Ruler	318/-	"	310/-	"
<b>PRINTING (DAILY NEWSPAPER)</b>				
Compositor (Machine) -				
Day Work	387/6 to 413/-	"	400/6	38
Night Work	407/6 to 433/-	"	422/6	"
Machinist (First Hand) -				
Day Work	356/6 to 368/-	"	365/9	40
Night Work	376/6 to 388/-	"	410/9	38
Publisher -				
Day Work	326/6 to 343/-	"	340/3 & 322/9	40
Night Work	346/6 to 363/-	"	363/3 & 370/9	38
Reader -				
Day Work	359/6 to 378/-	"	371/-	40
Night Work	379/6 to 398/-	"	401/-	38
Stereotyper -				
Day Work	359/- to 368/-	"	381/-	39
Night Work	379/- to 388/-	"	406/3	38
<b>PRINTING (JOBBER OFFICES) -</b>				
Compositor	318/- to 340/6	"	310/- to 332/6	40
Linotype Operator	340/6	"	332/6	"
Machinist	318/-	"	310/-	"
Reader	325/6	"	317/6	"
Stereotyper	318/-	"	310/-	"
<b>OTHER MANUFACTURING</b>				
<b>BRICKMAKING -</b>				
Burner	293/6 to 301/6	40	297/-	40
Pitman	316/6	"	311/6 & 317/6	"
Drawer	323/6	"	296/6 to 309/-	"
Trucker	312/-	"	291/-	"
Setter	323/6	"	296/6 & 309/-	"
<b>VEHICLE BUILDING</b>				
Bodymaker, 1st Class	318/-	"	310/-	"
Labourer	246/-	"	238/-	"
Painter	271/6 to 310/6	"	263/6 to 302/6	"
Spring maker	294/- to 318/-	"	286/- to 310/-	"
Trimmer	293/- & 310/6	"	285/- & 302/6	"
Wheelwright	318/-	"	310/-	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES 31ST DECEMBER, 1955 (Contd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>OTHER MANUFACTURING (Contd.)</u>				
<u>GAS-MAKING AND SUPPLY -</u>	s. d.		s. d.	
Coke Trimmer	275/-	40	267/-	40
Gasfitter	346/-	"	326/9	"
Labourer	362/-	"	261/-	"
Motor Tester	283/- & 298/-	"	296/-	"
Service Layer	303/-	"	288/6	"
Service Layer's Labourer	272/-	"	264/-	"
Stoker	293/-	"	286/-	"
<u>JEWELLERY -</u>				
Chainmaker	323/-	"	321/-	"
Mounter	298/- to 338/-	"	296/- to 336/-	"
Setter	323/- to 338/-	"	308/6 to 336/-	"
<u>LEATHER AND CANVAS WORK -</u>				
Canvas Worker	283/- to 295/-	"	275/- to 297/-	"
Leather Worker	289/- to 295/-	"	282/- to 287/-	"
<u>TANNING AND CURRYING -</u>				
Beamsman	296/6	"	288/6	"
Labourer	266/6	"	253/6	"
Linemaster	288/6	"	280/6	"
<u>Machinist -</u>				
Shaving	297/6 to 305/-	"	289/6 to 297/-	"
Splitting	311/6 to 321/6	"	303/6 to 313/6	"
Unhairing	296/6	"	288/6	"
Tableman	290/6 to 297/6	"	282/6 to 289/6	"
<u>BUILDING *</u>				
Bricklayer (Surface)	370/-	40	355/2	40
Bricklayer (Sewer & Tunnel)	383/4	"	380/2	"
Carpenter	376/8	"	377/8	"
Mason (Stone)	355/-	"	327/- (a)	"
Painter	358/4	"	354/-	"
Paperhanger	358/4	"	355/-	"
Signwriter	370/10	"	355/-	"
Plasterer (Surface)	365/3	"	355/-	"
Plumber	366/9	"	352/-	"
Labourer -				
Bricklayer's	295/10	"	282/-	"
Carpenter's	295/10	"	282/6	"
Concrete Worker	295/10	"	282/6	"
Earth Excavator	295/10	"	282/6	"
Gear Worker	305/10	"	293/4	"
Scaffold Hand	305/10	"	293/4	"
<u>RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES</u>				
<u>RAILWAYS -</u>				
Engine Driver Loco -				
Steam, Diesel electric or electric	372/- & 387/-	φ	366/- & 381/-	φ
Express, mail or passenger	402/-	φ	396/-	φ
Shunting Engine	327/- & 342/-	φ	313/6 & 328/6	φ
Fireman -				
Ordinary	289/6 & 304/6	φ	283/6 & 298/6	φ
Express, mail or passenger	312/-	φ	306/-	φ
Shunting Engine	276/- to 285/6	φ	264/6 to 279/6	φ
Guard -				
1st Class	312/- to 330/-	φ	339/-	φ
2nd Class	306/-	φ	302/- to 324/-	φ
Porter -	269/- to 275/-	φ	263/6 to 296/-	φ
Shunter -				
Head	322/7 to 348/6	+	316/6 to 354/6	+
Ordinary	285/- to 306/-	+	279/- to 300/-	+

\* Rates are weekly equivalent of hourly rates. They include allowances for leave, holidays, following the job, etc.  
(a) Rate for stonemason, not comparable with previous years when rate for carver (Building) was shown.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES 31st DECEMBER, 1955 (Contd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rate of Wage	Hours	Rate of Wage	Hours
<u>RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES (Contd.)</u>				
<u>RAILWAYS (Contd.)</u>	s. d.		s. d.	
Signalman -				
1st Class	368/6	+	336/-	+
2nd Class	353/6	ø	319/-	ø
3rd Class	342/-	ø	306/-	ø
<u>TRAMWAYS -</u>				
Conductor -				
1st Year	275/6	40	269/-	40
2nd Year	290/6	"	253/6	"
Thereafter	290/6	"	283/6	"
Labourer	268/6	"	264/-	"
Track Repairer	276/- & 289/-	"	272/-	"
Motorman -				
1st Year	298/-	"	291/-	"
2nd Year	298/-	"	291/-	"
Thereafter	298/-	"	291/-	"
Pitman	305/6	"	295/-	"
+ 76 hours per fortnight, ø 80 hours per fortnight.				
<u>TRANSPORT (OTHER)</u>				
<u>CARRYING MERCHANDISE -</u>				
Carter -				
1 horse	266/-	40	258/6	40
2 horses	293/-	"	272/-	"
Stable Hand	283/6	"	253/-	"
Motor Lorries and Wagons - 3 tons	307/-	"	287/6	"
3 tons but under 6 tons	311/- to 319/-	"	291/-	"
<u>WHARF LAPOUR -</u>				
Wharf Labourer (per hour)	8/10			
<u>HOTELS, ETC.</u>				
<u>HOTELS -</u>				
Barman	283/-	40	271/-	40
Billiard Marker	263/-	"	255/-	"
Cook	273/- to 358/-	"	265/- to 350/-	"
Handyman	263/-	"	255/-	"
Kitchenman	263/-	"	255/-	"
Porter	263/-	"	255/-	"
Waiter	263/-	"	255/-	"
<u>BARBERSHOP -</u>				
Hairdresser (men's)	306/- to 316/-	"	291/-	"
<u>GENERAL LABOUR</u>				
<u>FACTORY ENGINE DRIVING -</u>				
Engine Driver -				
1st Class	295/6 & 306/-	40	287/6 & 298/-	40
2nd Class	285/- & 295/6	"	277/- & 287/6	"
Fireman -				
1st Class	256/-	"	260/-	"
2nd Class	275/6	"	267/6	"
<u>MUNICIPAL -</u>				
Labourer	310/-	"	262/6	"
Street Sweeper	321/-	"	268/-	"
<u>SHOP ASSISTANTS -</u>				
Boot Salesman	305/-	"	296/-	"
Drapery Salesman	305/-	"	296/-	"
Furniture Salesman	305/-	"	300/-	"
Grocery Salesman	305/-	"	290/6	"
Hardware Salesman	305/-	"	296/-	"
Men's Clothing Salesman	305/-	"	296/-	"
<u>STOREMEN AND PACKERS -</u>				
Packer (General)	290/6 & 294/6	"	289/6	"
Storeman (General)	290/6 & 294/6	"	289/6	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT FEMALES, 31st DECEMBER, 1955 (Contd.)

Industry of Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage		Rates of Wage	
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
	FOOD			
	s. d.		s. d.	
Biscuit Making	191/6	40	204/3	40
Confectionery	203/6	"	199/6	"
	CLOTHING & TEXTILES			
Bootmaking	199/-	40	199/-	40
Dressmaking	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-	"
Millinery	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-	"
Shirt Making	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-	"
Underclothing	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-	"
TAILORING - ORDER -				
Coat Hand (Machinist)	213/-	"	213/-	"
Trousers & Vest Hand	200/6	"	200/6	"
Tailoress	229/-	"	229/-	"
Adult Female	183/-	"	183/-	"
TAILORING - READYMADE				
Coat Hand (Machinist)	203/-	"	203/-	"
Trousers & Vest Hand	198/-	"	198/-	"
Examiner	229/-	"	229/-	"
Adult Female	183/-	"	183/-	"
Wool Working (WOOLLEN MILLS)				
Comb Minder	197/-	"	197/-	"
Darner & Mender	199/- & 202/-	"	199/- & 202/-	"
Warper	199/-	"	199/-	"
Weaver (Loom)	202/-	"	202/-	"
Gillbox Minder	195/-	"	195/-	"
Other Adult	181/-	"	181/-	"
	BOOKS, PRINTING, ETC.			
BOOKBINDING -				
Folder	206/-	40	206/-	40
Sewer	206/-	"	206/-	"
CARDBOARD BOX-				
Box maker	204/- to 210/6	"	198/- to 211/6	"
Other	194/6	"	188/6	"
PRINTING -				
Jobbing Office Assistant	206/-	"	200/-	"
	HOTELS AND SHOPS, ETC.			
HOTELS				
Barmaid	219/6	40	275/-	"
Housemaid	199/-	"	193/-	"
Laundress	200/-	"	194/-	"
Waitress - Head	206/-	"	200/-	"
Waitress - Other	199/-	"	193/-	"
RESTAURANTS -				
Pantry Maid	197/-	"	194/6	"
Waitress	197/-	"	194/6	"
CLERKS -				
Cashiers (Shops)	221/6	"	227/-	"
Clerical Assistants	214/6	"	227/-	"
SHOPS				
Foot Saleswoman	221/6 & 305/-	"	209/6	"
Drapery Saleswoman	221/6 & 305/-	"	209/6 & 296/-	"
Fruit & Confectionery Saleswoman	221/6	"	205/6	"
Newsagent & Bookstall Saleswoman	221/6	"	192/- & 198/6	"